

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 are amended, and support for the amendments is found in the Applicants' specification on page 42, lines 10-19 and Figures 15 and 16. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as unpatentable over Matsui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,674,995, herein "Matsui"); and Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Matsui.

Before turning to the outstanding art rejections, it is believed that a brief review of the invention would be helpful. The claimed invention is directed to an information processing apparatus, information processing method, and a program storage medium for copying image information recorded on a first recording medium onto a second recording medium.

Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, the following:

"determining means for determining if the moving means moves the one of the at least one image information icon to the second icon;

means for requesting a user input based on a result of the determining means;

first setting means for setting whether or not a data format of the image information determined as an object of copying by the moving means **should be converted based on the user input**; ... and

writing means for writing the image information read out by said readout means or the image information converted by said conversion means onto the second recording medium based on the **setting of said first setting means**." (emphasis added)

The structure of amended Claim 1 recited above provides an information processing apparatus that allows a user to easily select image information to be copied, the destination

for the copied data, and prompts the user to set whether or not the image information should be converted before being copied onto the second recording medium. Therefore, the structure of amended Claim 1 allows the user to control the conversion of the image information being copied, thereby allowing the compatibility of the data to be maintained with other personal computers that may or may not support the original data format of the image information.¹ Amended independent Claims 5 and 6 recite an information processing method and a program storage medium storing a computer-readable program, respectively, having features similar to the features discussed above with respect to amended Claim 1.

Matsui is directed to an editing apparatus and editing method for editing news video, sports video, and audio. The editing apparatus and method of Matsui allows an editing operator to edit video clips, associate audio with the video clips, and coordinate the edited audio and video information into a final video program that may be broadcast to viewers via a broadcasting station. Matsui describes at column 7, lines 7-53 that the editing processing unit of the editing apparatus transmits and receives information from a variety of storing means including a daily server 6, a VTR 7, and local storage 8, and that the data may be converted into different formats based on the input/output interfaces of the storing means.²

However, Matsui does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the editing operator has any control over the conversion of the data. The editing operator using the editing apparatus can only select data from different sources, edit the data, and save the edited data. The editing apparatus and method described in Matsui does not request information from the editing operator regarding the conversion of the data, and therefore the conversion is not based on an input from the editing operator. The conversion is based on the interface between the editing processing unit and the storing means.

¹ Applicant specification, page 42, lines 10-19.

² Matsui, column 7, lines 7-53.

Therefore, Matsui does not disclose, teach, or suggest the information processing apparatus of amended Claim 1, that includes “**means for requesting a user input based on a result of the determining means**; first setting means for setting whether or not a data format of the image information determined as an object of copying by the moving means **should be converted based on the user input**; … and writing means for writing the image information read out by said readout means or the image information converted by said conversion means onto the second recording medium based on the **setting of said first setting means**.”

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Matsui does not disclose each and every element of amended Claim 1, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection to Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Likewise, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 5 and 6, which have similar features to the features recited in amended Claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to amended Claim 1. Therefore, it is also respectfully requested that the rejection to Claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 2-4 are allowable at least because of their dependent recitation of the above-identified features of independent Claim 1. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to Claims 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and the rejection to Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for formal and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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